

REMARKS

Claims 2 to 17 are pending. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 to 17¹ stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,292,440 to Lee ("Lee") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,990,208 to Lau et al. ("Lau").

Claim 17 relates to a device for playing back multimedia files stored in an automotive environment, which includes, inter alia, a storage device and a processor for decoding the multimedia files. Claim 17 recites that the processor includes an element for displaying directories located in the storage device and in which the multimedia data files are contained, as different virtual data carriers, and the multimedia data files as different titles on the display, and the different data virtual carriers and the different titles are selectable in accordance with an operation of the input apparatus.

It is respectfully submitted that Lee and Lau, either alone or combined, do not disclose, or even suggest, displaying directories as different virtual data carriers, which are selectable in accordance with an operation of an input apparatus, as provided for in the context of claim 17, as presented. Indeed, neither Lee nor Lau disclose or suggest virtual data carriers. Instead, Lee merely refers to the features of a basic MP3 audio system, and Lau merely refers to directories with more than one playlist, but the playlist is not a virtual data carrier. Moreover, one skilled in the art would not identify a playlist with a data carrier, which, as exemplified in the present application, can include a CD, DVD or hard disk. Hence, the systems of Lee and Lau, either alone or combined, do not disclose or suggest all of the features and advantages of the presently claimed subject matter, with respect to a user exploiting his or her knowledge about navigating CDs and/or CD changers. In this regard, the present application states, for example, on page 1, line 22 to page 2, line 1, that:

It is particularly advantageous that existing data structures are translated into an operating philosophy modeled on a CD changer. In this context, virtual data carriers are assigned to the individual directories in which the multimedia data files are located, for example, CD 1 is assigned to directory 1, and the titles or numbers of the multimedia data files are assigned to the multimedia files contained therein. This results in markedly simplified operation which is very useful, particularly for an

¹ As indicated in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claim 6 was not expressly identified as rejected. However, claim 6 appears to have been rejected based on the remarks appearing on page 3 of the Office Action.

automobile driver, since he or she is not distracted by a complicated operation.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is not rendered obvious, or any claims that depend from claim 17, including, claims 4, 6, 8 10 to 16, or claims 2, 5 and 9 which recite features essentially analogous to claim 17, as well as their dependent claims 3 and 7, for at least the reason that the Lee and Lau references, either alone or combined do not disclose all of the features of claim 17, in particular, the features of displaying directories as different virtual data carriers. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 2 to 17 are allowable.

As further regards the rejections of claims 2 and 3, it is respectfully submitted that Lee and Lau, either alone or combined, do not disclose, or even suggest, a processor that, together with an operation of an input apparatus, is capable of linking multimedia data files, located on a storage device, to at least one new directory, and that provides an option to store the multimedia data files once again, as provided for in the context of claim 2, as presented. Indeed, the MP3 files referred to by Lee and/or Lau cannot be arranged in a new directory by the user. Accordingly, claim 2 and its dependent claim 3 are allowable for these further reasons.

CONCLUSION

Each of the issues raised by the Examiner has been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Passage to issuance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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KENYON & KENYON
By: Gerard A. Messina (Reg. No. 41,172)
By: 812
Gerard A. Messina
Reg. No. 35,952

KENYON & KENYON LLP
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200